

# Composting: Choose Your Favorite Recipe



## What to Put In

- organic material



## What Not to Put In

- Meat, Fat, Oil
- Dairy Products
- Pet Wastes



## Possible Ingredients

### Kitchen Scraps

- fruit & vegetable peels/skins/rinds/cores
- egg shells
- tea bags & coffee grounds, inc. filters
- rotten fruits & vegetables
- stale or moldy bread (don't put in if concerned about pests)

### Other Household Ingredients

- dead leaves from houseplants
- dead/dying cut flowers
- dead or unwanted houseplants
- fireplace wood ashes (not briquettes)

### Woody Yard Debris--high in carbon

- wood chips
- medium twigs
- sawdust

### Non-woody Yard Debris

- leaves
- grass clippings--always mix in
- dead plants
- plants from end-of-season garden clean-up
- small trimmings
- weeds (not covered with seeds)

### Extra Goodies

- seaweed
- manure (especially cow, horse)

### What Every Compost Pile Needs

- microorganisms (don't worry, they're there)
- organics (food for microorganisms)
- water (rain or hose)
- air/oxygen (there are exceptions)
- time (less work, more time)

### What Not to Bother With

- inoculants, starters (as I said, the microorganisms are already there)
- lime, blood meal, or other things to buy
- dirt
- fertilizer
- elaborate schemes to add oxygen

## To Bin or Not To Bin

### Advantages of just a pile

- less obtrusive
- easier to rake to one side



### Advantages of a bin

- bigger pile in same area
- neater, more organized
- more middle
- some are rodent resistant



## Ways to Speed Up

- make pile bigger, fuller
- make pieces smaller (chop, mow)
- good mix of browns/greens (C/N ratio)
- turn pile more often
- water pile as you build it
- limit woody yard debris



-over-

## Recipes

<u>Method</u>	<u>Ratings</u>	<u>Suitable Ingredients</u>
<u>Use Compost Pile @ Transfer Station</u>	fast 1 2 3 4 5 slow free 1 2 3 4 5 \$\$\$ easy 1 2 3 4 5 hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaves</li> </ul>
<u>Hire your Landscaper to Turn &amp; Manage Compost Pile</u>	fast 1 2 3 4 5 slow free 1 2 3 4 5 \$\$\$ easy 1 2 3 4 5 hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everything listed on front except limit the woody yard debris</li> </ul>
<u>Make a Pile with No Bin</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>turn twice a year</li> </ul>	fast 1 2 3 4 5 slow free 1 2 3 4 5 \$\$\$ easy 1 2 3 4 5 hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kitchen Scraps</li> <li>Other household ingrds.</li> <li>Non-woody yard debris</li> <li>Extra Goodies</li> </ul>
<u>Make a Pile in the Woods</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>don't turn; maybe don't use</li> </ul>	fast 1 2 3 4 5 slow free 1 2 3 4 5 \$\$\$ easy 1 2 3 4 5 hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-woody yard debris</li> <li>Other household ingrds.</li> </ul>
<u>Anaerobic Bin</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e.g. "City Composter"</li> </ul>	fast 1 2 3 4 5 slow free 1 2 3 4 5 \$\$\$ easy 1 2 3 4 5 hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kitchen Scraps</li> <li>Other household ingrds.</li> <li>Limited Non-woody Yard debris</li> </ul>
<u>Soil Incorporation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dig a hole</li> <li>bury it</li> </ul>	fast 1 2 3 4 5 slow free 1 2 3 4 5 \$\$\$ easy 1 2 3 4 5 hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kitchen Scraps</li> </ul>
<u>Soil Incorporation in the Garden</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>plan garden in multiples of 3 rows: 1 for plants, 1 for path, 1 trench for compostables</li> <li>rotate yearly</li> </ul>	fast 1 2 3 4 5 slow free 1 2 3 4 5 \$\$\$ easy 1 2 3 4 5 hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kitchen Scraps</li> </ul>
<u>Half-Barrel</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>drill drainage holes</li> <li>fill 3/4 full with wood chips</li> <li>bury scraps with trowel</li> </ul>	fast 1 2 3 4 5 slow free 1 2 3 4 5 \$\$\$ easy 1 2 3 4 5 hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wood Chips</li> <li>Kitchen Scraps</li> </ul>
<u>Large motorized drum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>commercially available</li> <li>suitable for neighborhoods</li> </ul>	fast 1 2 3 4 5 slow free 1 2 3 4 5 \$\$\$ easy 1 2 3 4 5 hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everything listed on front except limit the woody yard debris</li> </ul>
<u>One sided "bin"</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>define an area by putting rabbit wire between 2 trees</li> </ul>	fast 1 2 3 4 5 slow free 1 2 3 4 5 \$\$\$ easy 1 2 3 4 5 hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-woody yard debris</li> <li>Other household ingrds.</li> </ul>
<u>Make a bin</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>see flyers for designs</li> </ul>	fast 1 2 3 4 5 slow free 1 2 3 4 5 \$\$\$ easy 1 2 3 4 5 hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usually everything listed on front except limit the woody yard debris</li> </ul>
<u>Buy a bin</u>	fast 1 2 3 4 5 slow free 1 2 3 4 5 \$\$\$ easy 1 2 3 4 5 hard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usually everything listed on front except limit the woody yard debris</li> </ul>